**USA SWIMMING CODE OF CONDUCT (EXCERPTED FROM 2012 USA SWIMMING RULE BOOK)**

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**ARTICLE 304**

**CODE OF CONDUCT (EXCERPTED FROM 2012 USA SWIMMING RULEBOOK)**[***DOWNLOAD FULL RULEBOOK HERE***](http://www.usaswimming.org/_Rainbow/Documents/c783f06e-18ad-4f43-b0fa-246c124a73ee/2012%20Rule%20Book.pdf)

**304.1**

The mission of USA Swimming is to encourage participation and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of swimming. USA Swimming grants the privilege of membership to individuals and   
organizations committed to that mission. The privilege of membership may, therefore, be withdrawn   
or denied by USA Swimming at any time where USA Swimming determines that a member   
or prospective member's conduct is inconsistent with the mission of the organization or the best   
interest of the sport and those who participate in it.   
In order to assist all members to better serve the interests of those who participate in swimming,   
USA Swimming has adopted this Code of Conduct.

**304.2**

Any member or prospective member of USA Swimming may be denied membership, censured,   
placed on probation, suspended for a definite or indefinite period of time with or without   
terms of probation, fined or expelled from USA Swimming if such member violates the provisions   
of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct, set forth in 304.3, or aids, abets or encourages another   
person to violate any of the provisions of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct.

**304.3**

The following shall be considered violations of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct:

.1 Violation of the right to compete provisions set forth in 301.1 through 301.4.

.2 Violation of the anti-doping provisions set forth in 303.3.

.3 Discrimination in violation of any part of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations or the   
Amateur Sports Act which requires that USA Swimming must provide: "an equal opportunity   
to amateur athletes; coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate   
in amateur athletic competition, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion,   
age, gender, or national origin."

.4 Violation of any of the Athlete Protection Policies set forth in Article 305

.5 Violation of any of the Sexual Misconduct Reporting Requirements set forth in Article 306.

.6 Conviction of, imposition of a deferred sentence for, or any plea of guilty or no contest at any   
time, past or present, or the existence of any pending charges, for (i) any felony, (ii) any   
offense involving use, possession, distribution or intent to distribute illegal drugs or substances,   
(iii) any crime involving sexual misconduct, or (iv) any criminal offense against a   
minor.

.7 Bullying is prohibited. For these purposes, the term “bullying” shall mean, regardless of   
when or where it may occur, the severe or repeated use by one or more USA Swimming   
members (“Members”) of an oral, written, electronic or other technological expression,   
image, sound, data or intelligence of any nature (regardless of the method of transmission),   
or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at any other Member that   
to a reasonably objective person has the effect of: (i) causing physical or emotional harm to   
the other Member or damage to the other Member’s property; (ii) placing the other Member   
in reasonable fear of harm to himself/herself or of damage to his/her property; (iii) creating a   
hostile environment for the other Member at any USA Swimming activity; (iv) infringing on   
the rights of the other Member at any USA Swimming activity; or (v) materially and substantially   
disrupting the training process or the orderly operation of any USA Swimming activity

(which for the purposes of this section shall include, without limitation, practices, workouts   
and other events of a member club or LSC).

.8 Any inappropriate sexual conduct or advance, or other oral, written, visual, or physical conduct   
of a sexual nature directed towards an athlete by (i) a coach member or other non-athlete   
member, or (ii) any other adult participating in any capacity whatsoever in the activities   
of USA Swimming (whether such adult is a member or not). Any act of sexual harassment,   
including without limitation unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and   
other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature in connection with or incidental to a USA   
Swimming-related activity by any person participating in the affairs or activities of USA   
Swimming (whether such person is a member or not) directed toward any member or other   
person participating in the affairs or activities of USA Swimming.

.9 The sale or distribution of illegal drugs or the illegal sale or distribution of any substance   
listed on FINA's recognized list of banned substances.

.10 The use of illegal drugs in the presence of an athlete, by a coach, official, trainer, or a person   
who, in the context of swimming, is in a position of authority over, that athlete.

.11 The providing of alcohol to an athlete by a coach, official, trainer, manager or any other person   
where the athlete is under the legal age allowed to consume or purchase alcohol in the   
state where the alcohol is provided.

.12 The abuse of alcohol in the presence of an athlete under the age of 18, by a coach, official,   
trainer, or a person who, in the context of swimming, is in a position of authority over that   
athlete.

.13 Physical abuse of an athlete by any person who, in the context of swimming, is in a position   
of authority over that athlete.

.14 Any act of fraud, deception or dishonesty in connection with any USA Swimming-related   
activity.

.15 Any non-consensual physical contact, obscene language or gesture, or other threatening   
language or conduct directed towards any meet official and which is related to any decision   
made by such official in connection with a USA Swimming sanctioned competition.

.16 Action, other than through general advertising, by a coach, owner, officer, volunteer, representative,   
or employee of a swim club, or a USA Swimming or LSC employee, either through   
direct contact with an athlete or the encouragement of others, to recruit or otherwise encourage   
an athlete who is already a member of a USA Swimming member swim club to leave   
that club, unless the acting party receives prior written approval to recruit or encourage the   
athlete to change affiliation from the designated club representative of the athlete's existing   
USA Swimming-member swim club or contact is initiated by the athlete, the athlete's parent   
or authorized representative. General advertising includes any information that is:

A Distributed to an identifiable general population where there is a reasonable expectation   
that the majority of that population are not current members of USA Swimming, or

B Placed in or on any item that is sold.   
In the event of a violation of this section, a sanction may be imposed against any coach,   
owner, officer, volunteer, representative or employee of a swim club, or against any such   
club, or any combination thereof, as appropriate.

.17 Violation of any team misconduct rule as established by the USOC, USA Swimming, any   
Zone or LSC team authority.

.18 Any other material and intentional act, conduct or omission not provided for above, which is   
detrimental to the image or reputation of USA Swimming, a LSC or the sport of swimming.